

## **U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado Announces New Case Management and Electronic Case Files System**

Denver, CO, January 2004 - The U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado has announced the adoption of a new case management and electronic case files system. This new system, known as CM/ECF, was developed by the federal judiciary to replace aging case management systems in more than 200 federal courts nationwide. CM/ECF will provide Colorado with updated and enhanced case management tools, the capability to store court documents in electronic format and the ability to accept electronic filings.

Once fully implemented, attorneys practicing in the federal district court for Colorado will be able to file documents directly with the court over the Internet. The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use. Filing attorneys prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then convert it to PDF. After logging onto the court's web site with a court-issued password, the attorney fills out several screens with information that serves as the basis for the docket entry, attaches the document and submits it to the court. A notice verifying court receipt is automatically generated and sent by email to the attorney. Other parties in the case also receive email notification of action in the case.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program at a current rate of \$.07 per page. Litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases. Additional copies are available to attorneys and the general public for viewing or downloading at \$.07 per page. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

The court began its implementation of the CM/ECF system in November 2003 with an expected initial live date of electronic filing for both civil and criminal filings in the winter of 2005.

For more information, contact Gregory C. Langham, Clerk of Court at 303.844.3433.